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C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6859

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CB

SUBJ: SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE CONCERN ABOUT PHANTOMS/CORRUPTION

REF: STATE 133277 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR INOUE'S SUGGESTION COMMUNICATED IN REFTEL, I TODAY SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT LON NOL (OUR TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH).

2. QTE MR. PRESIDENT:

QTE AS YOU REMEMBER, SENATOR DANIEL INOUE OF HAWAII AND A NUMBER OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS VISITED CAMBODIA DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY. THEIR MISSION WAS TO INFORM THEMSELVES ON UTILIZATION OF AMERICAN AID. YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THEM.

QTE ON 11 JUNE THE SUBCOMMITTEE HELD HEARINGS ON PROGRAMS OF AID TO CAMBODIA. FOLLOWING THE HEARINGS SENATOR INOUE HAS ASKED ME TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU THE

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PAGE 02-02

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DEEP CONCERN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AT WHAT IT CONSIDERES TO BE THE ABSENCE OF TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE KHMER GOVERNMENT TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM OF "PHANTOM" SOLDIERS, AND TO REPRESS OTHER FORMS OF CORRUPTION IN THE ARMY. THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS ALSO CONCERNED AT THE MINIMUM PUNISHMENT IMPOSED ON THE SMALL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE JUSTICE.

QTE IT IS CLEAR THAT NO ACTION AT THIS TIME WOULD MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFIDENCE THAN THE SEVERE REPRESSION OF CORRUPTION IN THE ARMY, BEGINNING WITH THE RAPID JUDGMENT AND EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS ALREADY CAUGHT. UNQTE

3. PLEASE INFORM SENATOR INOUE AND AMBASSADOR UM SIM OF THE ABOVE LETTER. SWANK

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